

In reply refer to  
NA

MAY 12 1949

RESTRICTED

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY, SANAGO

Subject: Message to SCAP from FEC Relative to the Review of the Japanese Constitution.

There is enclosed a copy of a message to SCAP relative to the review of the Japanese Constitution which was approved at the 152nd meeting of the Far Eastern Commission on May 5, 1949. This message was approved by a vote of seven in favor with four abstentions (India, Philippines, U.S.S.R. and U.S.).

It is requested that the text of the enclosed message, along with a record of the vote, be forwarded to the Joint Chiefs of Staff for transmission to General MacArthur for his information.

The Chairman of the Far Eastern Commission has requested that he be notified in the usual manner when it has been received in Tokyo.

In approving this message the Commission agreed that there should be no release to the press concerning this action by the Far Eastern Commission.

W. Walton Buttersworth  
Director for Far Eastern Affairs

Enclosure:

Message to SCAP.

FE:NA:ALDunning:lk  
5/9/49

RESTRICTED

A true copy of  
the signed original.  
CR/21C

5/11/49

DC/52

In reply refer to  
NA

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE UNITED STATES MEMBER  
FAR EASTERN COMMISSION

With reference to the question of the Japanese Constitution, the United States Member, Far Eastern Commission, is authorized to make the following statement:

"The United States Government desires to make a matter of record the message which the Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers issued to the people of Japan on the second anniversary of the new Japanese Constitution. The message reads as follows:

'Today marks the second anniversary of the birth of new Japan - a Japan conceived in the impoverished aftermath of wars violence, seeking political stability and social progress through concepts which hold to the primacy of individual liberty, equal opportunity, and personal dignity.

'These have been fruitful years as you progressively have come to understand and live by the new and enlightened constitutional precepts. Your basic laws have been recast and your public institutions redesigned. Your selected architects and builders have worked arduously to fabricate a citadel of freedom from those imperishable human forms drawn from experience of the ages. And your house now rests upon a political and social foundation which, if well fortified by the human spirit, should remain impervious to the ideological stresses and strains which threaten all about you.

'Your farmers now own the soil they and their forebears have long tilled - your workers now have a voice in the conditions of their employment - and your women now exercise influence upon the political and

social

*Handwritten initials*

RESTRICTED

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CS/H

5/11/49 DC/02

In reply refer to  
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- 2 -

social course of Japan's destiny, all beneficiaries of human rights and fundamental liberties rendered inalienable by your constitutional mandates. These changes in the moral values of Japanese life have brought about a regeneration of the Japanese edifice. This edifice, if it firmly stands as an impregnable barrier against the forces bent upon its destruction, will strengthen the faith of all peoples in the spirituality of human freedom. And in proportion as you value this freedom you must understand, cherish and preserve it.

'The allied purposes enunciated at Potsdam in many essential respects have been fulfilled, and you have worked diligently and faithfully to discharge your surrender commitments. That allied forces still occupy your native soil is thus by no means due to fault of yours since the inception of the occupation, but rather to events and circumstances elsewhere beyond your capacity to influence or control.

'In these two years the character of the occupation has gradually changed from the stern rigidity of a military operation to the friendly guidance of a protective force. While insisting upon the firm adherence to the course delineated by existing allied policies and directives, it is my purpose to continue to advance this transition just as rapidly as you are able to assume the attending autonomous responsibility. Thus progressive latitude will come to you in the stewardship of your own affairs.

'To such end and to insure the continuity of a calm and well ordered progress, I call upon every Japanese citizen on this anniversary of Japan's rebirth, to safeguard the commonwealth by unrelaxed vigilance against the destructive inroads of concepts incredulous of human wisdom, prejudicial to personal dignity, and suppressive of individual liberty. There can be no higher human purpose. Douglas MacArthur.'

"The fact that the Japanese people have a new and democratic constitution and that this Constitution has been in operation for two years constitutes in the opinion of the United States Government a circumstance of real significance."

W. Walton Butterworth  
Director for Far Eastern Affairs

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FE:NA:ALDunning:clh 5/11/49

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STATE-ARMY-NAVY-AIR FORCE COORDINATING COMMITTEE  
Washington, D.C.

SANA-6386  
19 May 1949

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF STATE:  
(Attention: Mr. H. W. Moseley)

Subject: Message Transmitted to SCAP by the  
Joint Chiefs of Staff

Reference: SANA-6372 (12 May 49)

Enclosed are four copies of a message to the Supreme  
Commander for the Allied Powers transmitted by the Joint  
Chiefs of Staff. Copy No. 1 is for transmittal to the Far  
Eastern Commission, and Copies No. 2, 3 and 4 are for the  
files of the State Department.

For the State-Army-Navy-Air Force Coordinating Committee:

*George H. Haselton*  
GEORGE H. HASELTON,  
Executive Secretary

Enclosure:  
Message dated 12 May 1949  
(Copies 1 thru 4)

894.011/5-1949

*Handwritten initials and a rectangular stamp area.*

JUN 22 1949

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WHEN ATTACHMENT IS REMOVED

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In reply refer to  
NA

*June 3, 1949*

RESTRICTED

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY GENERAL,  
FAR EASTERN COMMISSION

In accordance with a memorandum dated May 19, 1949 from the State-Army-Navy-Air Force Coordinating Committee, there is enclosed for the information of the Far Eastern Commission a certified copy of a message from the Far Eastern Commission to the Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers regarding the review of the Japanese constitution which was transmitted by the Joint Chiefs of Staff to the Supreme Commander on May 18, 1949.

894.011/5-1949

*MWB*

Max W. Bishop  
Chief

Division of Northeast Asian Affairs

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Enclosure:

Copy of message from  
FEC to SCAP.

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FE:NA:ALDunning:lk  
6/3/49

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A TRUE COPY OF  
*P.H.C.*

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894.011/5-1949

MILLARD E. TYDINGS, MD, CHAIRMAN  
 RICHARD B. RUSSELL, GA.  
 HARRY FLOOD BYRD, VA.  
 VIRGIL CHAPMAN, KY.  
 LYNDON B. JOHNSON, TEX.  
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 RAYMOND E. BALDWIN, CONN.  
 WILLIAM F. KNOWLAND, CALIF.

J. NELSON TRIBBY, CLERK

**United States Senate**  
 COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

**ACTION**  
 is assigned to  
 [Signature]

November 28, 1949

RECEIVED  
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 DEPT. OF STATE  
 DC/R

DIVISION OF  
 NORTHEAST ASIAN AFFAIRS  
 DEPT. OF STATE  
*Johnston*  
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*Relayed to Mr. Johnson*  
*Cal D*  
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*agr*

Gentlemen:

I have received a request from Mr. James R. Roach of the Department of Government, University of Texas, Austin 12, Texas for 50 copies of the new Japanese constitution. Mr. Roach intends to use this material in a course he is teaching on the Far East.

If it is possible to do so I would appreciate your complying with Mr. Roach's request.

Sincerely,

*Lyndon B. Johnson*  
 Lyndon B. Johnson

Department of State  
 Washington, D. C.

894.011/11-2849 CS/J

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FOR - CLAIMS UNIT  
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DEC 5 1949

In reply refer to  
NA 894.011/11-2849

My dear Senator Johnson:

With reference to your letter of November 28, 1949, transmitting a request from Mr. James R. Roach of the Department of Government of the University of Texas for fifty copies of the new Japanese Constitution, arrangements have been made with the Secretary General of the Far Eastern Commission for copies of this document to be sent directly to Mr. Roach.

Sincerely yours,

For the Secretary of State:

*acting* Ben H. Brown, Jr.  
~~Deputy~~ Assistant Secretary  
for Congressional Relations

DEC 2 1949 P.M.

The Honorable  
Lyndon B. Johnson,  
United States Senate.

A true copy of  
the signed copy  
has

*ALD*  
FE:NA:ALDunning:db  
12/2/49

*File X  
Cm*

*NA 894.011/11-2849*